Getting Your US driver’s Permit or License

AN EASY GUIDE TO PASSING THE WRITTEN TEST
(without looking like that guy)

Macalester College
International Student Programs
651.696.6992
intlstudent@macalester.edu
www.macalester.edu/isp

Need Identification but don’t want to drive? Get a State ID!

State IDs are great if you don’t want to drive but need an ID other than your passport to carry around with you.

You will still need to go to the DMV and bring the materials outlined in this brochure (Passport, I-20, Social Security Card or Transcript and I-94) but you will not have to take any form of test. You will also have to pay a $20.25 fee.

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LOCATION, HOW TO GET THERE, HOURS, WHAT TO BRING

Location:
445 Minnesota St
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-639-4057

Bus Route:
Take #63 Eastbound
Stop at 5th St & Wabasha St (about 30 min)

Open: Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:30pm
Written test: 8:00 - 3:45pm
(closed on holidays)

What to bring:
• Passport
• I-20
• Social Security card (or Macalester official transcript $5)
• I-94 (print at https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/)
• Fee (cash or check) for instruction permit after passing*
  o $26.25 (license, after passing written test)
  o $14.25 (permit)
  o $20.25 (MN ID)

*Permit not necessary if you have a foreign license – translated into English if necessary – and you are over 19 years of age, but you still have to take the written test and behind-the-wheel test. See MN Driver's Manual* for more information.

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NUMBERS TO KNOW

Q: How far behind a school bus are you supposed to stop when its red lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended?
A: At least 20 feet

Q: When passing a bicyclist, how much distance does there need to be between your car and the bicyclist?
A: 3 feet

Q: On hill tops and curves, how far should you be able to see up the road when passing another vehicle?
A: 700 feet (question usually asked in picture format, i.e. “Is it safe to pass in this situation?”)

Q: On hill tops and curves, from how far should other drivers be able to see your vehicle when you are executing a U-turn?
A: 1000 feet

For rules regarding legal parking, please refer to page 29 of the MN Driver’s Manual*

SPEED LIMITS

10 mph in alleys 30 mph on urban or town roads 55 mph in all other locations

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS

Right turn on red: Allowed unless otherwise indicated. Come to a complete stop and yield to all other traffic & pedestrians.

Left turn on red: Only allowed if turning from a one-way street onto another one way street.

Three second rule: Always maintain a gap of three seconds between your vehicle and the car in front of you.

Bike Lanes: It is illegal to drive in these lanes except to enter or leave the road e.g. when turning.


DRINKING AND DRIVING

Q: What is the blood-alcohol content (BAC) limit that one can be arrested for driving under the influence (DUI)?
A: 0.08 or higher

Q: If an officer can prove alcohol was involved while driving, what is the lowest one can be arrested for a DUI?
A: 0.04

COMMON SIGNS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Slow moving vehicle emblem. Must be displayed on the back of all vehicles that travel at speeds of 30mph or less.

Two lanes will become one. Right lane vehicles must merge and yield to vehicles in the left lane.

The road ahead declines steeply. Make sure your vehicle’s brakes are in working order before you proceed.

The road up ahead is slippery. Often located near bridges and overpasses.

For all the signs you need to know, please refer to Chapter 5 of the MN Driver’s Manual.

*For further information, check out the MN Driver’s Manual online at: https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/forms-documents/Documents/Minnesota_Drivers_Manual.pdf